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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A financial document item processing system for processing a check having a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag associated therewith, the system comprising:

a check transport path along which the check can be transported from an upstream end of the check transport path to a downstream end of the check transport path; and

an RFID tag endorser disposed along the check transport path and for wirelessly transmitting check endorsement data to the RFID tag of the check transported along the check transport path from the upstream end to the downstream end.

2. (previously presented) A system according to claim 1, further comprising an RFID tag encoder for wirelessly transmitting magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) encoded data to the RFID tag of the check transported along the check transport path from the upstream end to the downstream end.

3. (previously presented) A financial document item processing system for processing a check having a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag associated therewith, the system comprising:

a check transport path along which the check can be transported from an upstream end of the check transport path to a downstream end of the check transport path; and

an RFID tag encoder disposed along the check transport path and for wirelessly transmitting magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) encoded data to the RFID tag of the check transported along the check transport path from the upstream end to the downstream end.

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4. (withdrawn) A multiple-pass check processing system having an image capture workstation for processing a check having a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag associated therewith during a first pass of the check and an encoding and sorting workstation for processing the check during a second pass of the check, the system comprising:

an image capture transport processor for processing the check transported along a check transport path of the image capture workstation during the first pass; and

an RFID tag encoder disposed along a check transport path of the encoding and sorting workstation and for wirelessly transmitting magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) encoded data to the RFID tag of the check transported along the check transport path of the encoding and sorting workstation during the second pass.

5. (withdrawn) A system according to claim 4, further comprising an RFID tag endorser disposed along the check transport path of the encoding and sorting workstation and for wirelessly transmitting check endorsement data to the RFID tag of the check transported along the check transport path of the encoding and sorting workstation during the second pass.

6. (previously presented) A method of operating a financial document item processing system for processing a check having a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag associated therewith, the method comprising:

wirelessly transmitting check endorsement data to the RFID tag of the check transported along a check transport path of the item processing system from an upstream end of the check transport path to a downstream end of the check transport path.

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 6, further comprising: wirelessly transmitting magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) encoded data to the RFID tag of the check transported along the check transport path from the upstream end to the downstream end.

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8. (previously presented) A method of operating a financial document item processing system for processing a check having a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag associated therewith, the method comprising:

 wirelessly transmitting magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) encoded data to the RFID tag of the check transported along a check transport path of the item processing system from an upstream end of the check transport path to a downstream end of the check transport path.

9. (withdrawn) A method of operating a multiple-pass check processing system having an image capture workstation for processing a check having a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag associated therewith during a first pass of the check and an encoding and sorting workstation for processing the check during a second pass of the check, the method comprising:

 processing the check transported along a check transport path of the image capture workstation during the first pass; and

 wirelessly transmitting magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) encoded data to the RFID tag of the check transported along a check transport path of the encoding and sorting workstation during the second pass.

10. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 9, further comprising:

 wirelessly transmitting check endorsement data to the RFID tag of the check transported along the check transport path of the encoding and sorting workstation during the second pass.